MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I have no information.

MR. V. RAMAKRISHNA PANICKAR (*Kartikapalli II*): May I know whether Government have any idea as to the extent of the defects found out so far as 1109 is concerned ?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Every year we get reports with regard to the number of pupils suffering from skin diseases, eye diseases, and so on.

MR. V. RAMAKRISHNA PANICKAR (*Kartikapalli II*): May I know whether information of these defects is given to the guardians ?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Yes.

MR. V. RAMAKRISHNA PANICKAR (*Kartikapalli II*): Is it given orally or in writing ?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): In writing.

MR. V. RAMAKRISHNA PANICKAR (*Kartikapalli II*): May I know who gives the information to the guardians, the Medical Officers or the school authorities.

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): The Headmasters of schools.

Duty on articles imported from Indian States.

11. *MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): Will the Government be pleased to state ;

(*a*) whether they are levying import duty on articles imported into the State from the Native States, such as Mysore, Baroda and Hyderabad ; and

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the negative, the reason for the same ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): (*a*) No duty is being levied on goods other than tobacco, spirits, salt and opium.

(*b*) Under the Interportal Trade Convention, articles forming the produce or manufacture of British India and the Cochin State as well as foreign goods which have paid import duty in British India or Cochin State, except spirits, tobacco, salt and opium, are admitted free of duty into Travancore. Produces or manufactures of Indian States other than Cochin come into Travancore either through the ports of the State or *via* British India through the land frontier chowkeys. If duty is levied on such articles at the ports, they will be diverted to the land routes causing diminution to the activities of the ports. The levy of duty on such articles at the land frontier will result in a discrimination between articles coming from Native States and those coming from British India and the Cochin State. The volume of imports from Native States other than Cochin is not large enough to justify such a discrimination. Therefore, no duty is now levied on goods forming the produce or manufacture of Native States such as Mysore, Baroda and Hyderabad.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): With reference to part (*a*) of the answer, may I know whether tobacco, spirits, salt and opium were imported from the three Indian States, *viz.*, Mysore, Baroda and Hyderabad?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): These articles are liable to duty whereever they may come from.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): My question is whether tobacco, spirits, salt or opium was imported into the State from these three Indian States at any time.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): I claim notice.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): May I know whether any goods are being imported into this State from these three States.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): What are the articles imported?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): There are several articles from Mysore. But, from Baroda, Oka cement is the chief article imported.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): May I know the approximate quantity of Oka cement imported in 1109?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): I claim notice.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): What is the approximate amount of import duty levied in 1109 on Oka cement?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): I claim notice.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): May I know whether the Travancore Government are entitled to levy imported duty on articles imported from Indian States?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes, Government are free to levy import duty.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): Then may I know why import duty is not at present being levied on Okba cement?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Sir, that requires a word of explanation. In 1108, the Government passed orders to the effect that we may levy duty on all dutiable articles coming from Indian States other than Cochin. But, in actual practice, it was found that it was not easy to levy duty on these articles. It was found difficult to differentiate between articles manufactured in British India and in Indian States. It was also found difficult to prove payment of duty in British India as the articles often passed through several hands before they came to Travancore. Complaints were received from big concerns such as the K. D. H. P. Company that the decision of the Government was causing serious dislocation of business. Government re-examined the question and considered that the best way was to waive the claim and allow articles to pass duty free as before. The Government therefore

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

dropped the idea. It was thought that, if we insist upon the levy of duty, other States may retaliate. The amount of duty was also found to be not appreciable.

PRESIDENT : What do you mean by retaliation ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : They may impose prohibitory duties on our exports. Therefore, considering all the aspects of the question, Government came to the conclusion that it is better to allow the articles to be imported duty free.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*) : May I know whether Government ascertained the approximate income that may be derived by the levy of duty ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : We made a rough calculation. For the first six months of 1108, it came to about Rs. 30,000.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*) : May I know the amount of import duty on Oka cement ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : I have not got that information.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*) : May I know whether duty is being at present levied on any article imported into the State through the land frontier chowkeys ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : We do not levy duty on any article other than the four already mentioned.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*) : May I know whether discrimination is at present being maintained between the articles imported from Indian States and British India ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : We are not levying any import duty on any of the articles from whatever place they may come, other than the four articles I have already mentioned.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*) : May I know whether there is no means of discriminating between other articles and Oka cement ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : Excepting well-known commodities like Oka cement and Mysore sandalwood soap, which we can easily distinguish, there is no means of discriminating the other articles.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*) May I know why duty is not being levied on Oka cement ?

PRESIDENT : The Excise Commissioner gave a long statement showing why duty is not being levied on any article. Cement is included in that.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*) : May I know why import duty was not levied on articles which could be discriminated ?

PRESIDENT : How often can that question be asked and how often can it be answered ?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : (*Tiruvalla III*) : May I know whether the Excise Commissioner had at any time issued orders to subordinates to levy duty on cement ?

PRESIDENT : He said that orders were issued subsequently, after the question was re-examined.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*) : May I know whether any sum was collected by way of duty ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : A small sum was collected. But I am not in a position to say on what articles it was collected. A sum of Rs. 100 and odd was collected.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : May I know whether the question of import duty on articles imported from other States was taken up only in 1108 ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : Prior to 1108 all articles were imported free of duty. It was only in 1108 that that question was taken up. The whole question came up for consideration on account of a letter from the Dewan of Baroda for passing cement free of duty.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : Am I to understand that, from the date of the Interportal Trade Convention, the Travancore Government ceased to collect import duty upon articles imported from other States ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : Yes.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : Is it according to the Interportal Convention ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : Yes.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : Is the Excise Commissioner in a position to say that goods imported into other Native States are not subjected to imposition of duty in those States ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : I claim notice.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : Was that question also considered when the member stated that they might retaliate against the action of the Travancore Government ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : Though I cannot give a definite answer, as far as my information goes, no appreciable duty is imposed on Travancore exports in other Indian States. There might be a few instances, such as Hyderabad levying duty on a few articles.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*) : In respect of the apprehension of retaliation, may I know the extent of articles exported from Travancore into the Native States concerned ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : Articles worth over one lakh and a quarter of rupees in 1109 may be taken as an approximate figure.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*) : May I know the ratio of volume of imports from Native States other than Cochin and British India ?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : I claim notice.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*) : Then what does the member mean by the statement "..... ...the volume of imports from Native States other than Cochin is not large enough to justify such a discrimination....."

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : I have not made a calculation of the amount.

MR K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*) : May I know whether there are any statistics collected in the matter ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) ; Yes.

Appointment of Chirayinkil Tahsildar.

12. *MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether Mr. Periera was appointed to succeed Mr. Padmanabha Aiyar as Tahsildar in the Chirayinkil taluk recently ; and

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the affirmative, whether that order has been carried out ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*) : May I know who succeeded Mr. Padmanabha Aiyar as Tahsildar, Chirayinkil taluk ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : Mr. K. G. Narayana Pillai.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*) : May I know whether there is a rule that no non-caste Hindu or non-Hindu can be Tahsildar of Chirayinkil taluk ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : That has been the practice.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*) : Am I to understand then that no non-Hindu or non-caste Hindu has ever been posted as Tahsildar, Chirayinkil taluk ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : Not to my knowledge.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*) : May I know the reasons for that ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : The Tahsildar has certain functions to perform in connection with the ceremony called "Ariyittu Vazcha" in Attingal and it has been the custom to post a caste-Hindu Tahsildar at Attingal in order that he may perform those functions.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*) : Is that not a function to be performed by the Purohit ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : There are certain functions to be performed by the Tahsildar of Attingal in connection with the ceremony. I do not say that the Tahsildar has to perform the duties discharged by the Purohit.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly